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ABSTRACT

Intended for teenage readers, this book profiles 13-year old Shannon Anderson. Shannon lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with her grandmother, her two sisters, and two cousins. Shannon, who is an Ojibway Indian, practices the fancy shawl dance. This traditional dance requires the dancer to use fancy footwork and twirl a shawl. Shannon's younger sister and cousins are jingle dress dancers. A jingle dress is covered with small metal cones and makes a jingling sound as the dancer moves. Shannon, her sisters, and her cousins dance at powwows across Minnesota. Powwows are traditional Indian social events that feature drumming and dancing. Shannon's favorite is the annual powwow at the Mille Lacs Reservation (Minnesota), where many of her relatives live. Shannon and her family make many preparations for attending the Mille Lacs powwow including creating fancy dance costumes that involve intricate beadwork. Shannon and her sisters usually practice dancing once a week, but just before a powwow they practice for 3 straight days. Shannon attends a school that offers American Indian and French language immersion programs and courses in American Indian culture. This book depicts how one Indian family maintains tribal values, customs, and traditions. This book contains numerous photographs and a glossary. (LP)

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